Organizing Primary Sources

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1. “Gunther” points, these were found coastally in northern California and Southern Oregon.



Sloan Daltons points that were found in Illinois.



Ask the students what are the differences in the two samples of arrowheads. Ask students what could cause these differences.

Prearrange sources about the different tribes in both regions. Let them look for different resources, game, agriculture, tools, culture, or proximity to other tribes that could cause the differences in the two different arrowheads.

Have the students write a brief explanation of what they thought were some similarities between the two different regions/tribes/arrowheads and what they thought would happen if you switched the arrowheads between the different tribes. Share with the class.

1. Carnegie Museum of Natural History.

Let the students look around the site for about 5 minutes with the goal of finding one thing that relates to class. Discuss as a class what was found and how it was found. Based on what was found is this a good resource for our class? How do we know when something is a good resource?

Explore the site for another 5 minutes, have each student write down what this site would be good for, what they would use from this site, have them think about if it would be a better resource if we were there in person, and What are some of the limitations or conveniences about having sources online?

Break into groups with similar ideas and discuss individual points of view.

1. Photography: Inside view of emigrant wagon on the Oregon Trail.



A picture is worth a thousand words.

What words do you see in this picture? What feeling do you get when you look at this picture?

Make a class or individual list. Talk as a group about our individual strategies for examining this picture. Do we need a strategy or goal when looking at a picture?

How is there a working light bulb in this wagon one the Oregon Trail? Research this point and come back to share with class findings as well as if opinion has changed on whether strategies and goals are needed when examining pictures.